

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Seward High School

Seward, AK 99603

May 6, 2002

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Dr. Nels Anderson, President  
Ms. Deborah Germano, Vice President  
Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Clerk  
Mr. Joe Arness, Treasurer  
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Member  
Mrs. Margaret Gilman, Member  
Mr. Al Poindexter, Member  
Miss Katie Lockwood, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent of Schools  
Mrs. Melody Douglas, Chief Financial Officer  
Dr. Gary Whiteley, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction  
Mr. Todd Syverson, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Erling Hofseth	Mr. Jim White
Mr. Bill Rolph	Mr. Rick Matiya
Mr. John Cote'	Mr. David Kingsland
Dr. Shannon Atkinson	Dr. Roy Anderson
Mrs. Patty Linville	Mr. Jerry Dixon
Ms. Theresa Butts	Mrs. Kim Reierson
Mr. Marc Swanson	Ms. Carol Griswold
Ms. Sharon Ganser	Mr. Jerry Olive
Ms. Melissa Olver	Ms. Cindy Ecklund
Mr. Dave Diekgraeff	Ms. Marianna Keil
Ms. Sandra Wassilie	

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Dr. Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Dr. Anderson, Mr. Arness, Mrs. Mullins, Mrs. Gilman, Mr. Poindexter, Mrs. Crawford and Ms. Germano were in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 5:06 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the Board go into executive session to discuss matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the Borough. Specifically, the executive session was to discuss budget and negotiations. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 6:03 p.m., Mr. Poindexter moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Dr. Anderson invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
Ms. Deborah Germano	Present

Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
Mrs. Margaret Gilman	Present
Mr. Al Poindexter	Present
Miss Katie Lockwood	Absent/Excused

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of April 15, 2002 were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORTS: Mr. David Kingsland, Seward Elementary principal, introduced six student performers wearing traditional Native dress who danced and sang several Alutiiq songs. Mr. Crangle and two students presented a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the year's activities at the school which included classroom activities, field trips, parent volunteers, classroom speakers, art specialists, the local rally for education, cocurricular events, Native Youth Olympics, student accomplishments, science fair, bingo for books parent-student night, preschool swimming, sixth grade wax museum, and technology training.

Mr. Erling Hofseth, Hope Elementary/High principal, and Mr. Bill Rolph presented a PowerPoint presentation which included photos of the school, certified, and support staff, and a virtual tour of the school given by a senior high student. Mr. Hofseth reported that the school has 16 full time students and two part time students. He stated that writing is a school goal. He reported that the school is unique because students are involved in many coeducational activities, participate in swimming lessons in Girdwood, are involved in critical incident planning, participate in the Jason Project at the Seward Sea Life Center, and are involved in many other activities.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Ms. Marianna Keil, Seward Softball Association representative, expressed her appreciation for the Seward High administration. She stated that Mr. Pautz, Mr. Cote' and Mr. Houghton listened to the parents and students, and supported the Softball Association. She announced that the Association has a donation of coaches, uniforms, umpires, and reported that the team has won three games and two scrimmages. She stated that she was impressed by the teachers, students and concerned citizens at the local rally for education. She stated that it should not be a crime to fund education. She suggested that the District be funded for everything possible outside the cap.

Dr. Shannon Atkinson, stated she was speaking on behalf of Seward PTSA president-elect, Dr. Marlin Atkinson. She stated that the PTSA is concerned that the school faculty is becoming demoralized and that the lack of adequate funding may lead to problems attracting new employees. She expressed concern that the District will not be offering adequate salaries and asked the Board to help the PTSA promote the Seward schools. She stated that she is a professor of marine science at the University of Alaska and serves as the science director at the Alaska Sea Life Center. She stated that the Center is trying to create a world-class facility that will bring new opportunities to the community and Alaska. She noted that a weakened school system is a detriment and that schools should be more than adequate to encourage people to relocate in Seward. She asked the Board for ways that PTSA can help lift the standards at the school, improve the morale at the school and support the teachers, administration and the students. She stated that she has two children attending school in Seward and was initially pleased. She stated that she is not

impressed with the block system because it limits the students. She stated that class sizes are too large and the workload too much for the teachers. She stated that having 30 to 35 students in a classroom is not acceptable because students do not get as much interaction as they need. She stated that some of the attributes of the Hope School are attractive, especially the pupil-teacher ratio. She stated that it is appalling that her daughter can only have science for one semester in seventh grade.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS (continued): Ms. Patty Linville, Site Based Council member and Seward City librarian, stated that she has listened to the rhetoric for the last three years, such as declining enrollment, less funding, and fewer teachers. She requested that the school administration, teachers, School Board, and representatives of each of the Kenai Peninsula Borough sites be mandated to develop a long range solution to address some of the problems that are continually haunting the education of Alaskan students and to consider the sliding scale state income tax proposal. She stated that she would also like to see the group consider the problem of delivering a wide variety of classes to a small amount of students. She stated that she would like to see funding for schools for a five- or ten-year period. She stated that she would like to see more active lobbying for the interest of young couples with infants because the decisions made now will have an effect on them. She stated that if an interest committee is formed, she would like to participate.

Mr. Jerry Dixon, Seward Elementary QUEST teacher, thanked the Board for their work and stated that he has enjoyed working for the District for the past 12 years. He stated that he will be on sabbatical next year and hopes to work on the Seward educational initiative and locate money to fund projects at the Sea Life Center and other organizations. He stated that he is concerned about his children's education and he and his wife have been considering whether to leave their children in public school next year. He stated that they have decided to leave their children in school because Seward has excellent schools and superior teachers. He asked the Board to continue to support the Seward schools and teachers.

Dr. Anderson acknowledged Mr. Dixon's comments and commended him for being an excellent teacher and for being chosen as BP Teacher of the Year.

Mrs. Kim Reiersen, parent, stated that she is feeling the budget crunch with both children. She stated that her daughter was forced to take study hall in high school because there were no other classes for her to take during fourth period. She stated that the study hall issue is an ongoing problem from last year and anticipates that it will be a problem next year as well. She stated that her son is facing the possibility of having 35 students in his classroom next year. She stated that she realizes that Seward is not the only area facing budget problems but stated that funds and budgets can be manipulated and other resources can be used. She asked the Board to be creative and not to forget the Seward community.

Ms. Theresa Butts, Seward parent, stated that she has always had high standards for her children's education and noted that she was thrilled with the quality of Seward Elementary School. She stated that if the budget situation does not improve, she will consider educating her children elsewhere. She stated that she does not want to put them in private school but does not see any other options if the District is not adequately funded.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS (continued): Ms. Carol Griswold, Seward parent, referred to a recent newspaper article that succinctly explained the education funding trend and added that it is clear that there is a continuing decline in population and that if the state continues to base education funding on the number of students, they will not receive an adequate education. She reported that Seward Elementary does not have a music program or an art teacher and noted that offering specials is a problem throughout all small schools across the Peninsula. She asked the Board to reevaluate the music programs so they are continually funded and not based on the number of students. She stated that the high school cannot have a band or choir if the elementary students coming into the high school have not been exposed to a music program. She stated that because of block scheduling, her son has had to take too many study halls at Seward High. She stated that the teachers run out of things to do and resort to showing video tapes, allow students to work on homework, or talk. She stated that it is not a stimulating education and is not looking forward to her daughter's attendance at the high school. She stated that the poorer that public education becomes, the more students will leave. She stated that if the District can provide an excellent education, home schooled students will return to public education which will bring up the enrollment.

Mr. Marc Swanson, Seward Elementary teacher, stated that classrooms that have 35 sixth grade students are too large. He reviewed the projected enrollment at Seward Elementary and noted that two teachers were cut for next school year and asked the Board to return one of the positions.

Mr. Charlie Crangle, Seward Elementary teacher, expressed concern that some of the projects that he enjoys will be hindered because of the number of students in the classroom. He stated that in 1990 he taught in a classroom of 35 students at Seward Elementary and added that he felt like a warden or a lion tamer. He stated that fortunately, in November, the school received another teacher position but it was difficult for the students to make the transition. He stated that Mr. Kingsland presented some convincing statistics to the administration regarding the projected enrollment and further explained that the enrollment increases after the student count in October. He asked the Board to look at the statistics again and acknowledge that the Seward community is concerned about the education of the children. He stated that it is difficult to deliver quality education when there are high student numbers in classrooms. He agreed with Ms. Griswold's comments regarding the music program and added that Seward Elementary lost the program, regained it, and will lose it again next year. He stated that it is discouraging to suffer through year after year of budget cuts. He stated that in five years 65% of Seward Elementary teachers will be eligible for retirement and expressed concern that the Board will not be able to maintain a veteran staff unless something is done now. He encouraged the Board to work hard with the legislature during the next 10 days and added that there are a couple of resistant legislators on the Peninsula that need to be lobbied by parents and Board members.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS (continued): Mr. Jerry Olive, Seward Elementary special education teacher, stated that the talk among teachers is not about teaching anymore, it is about managing and management. He stated that the legislature must be made aware of the funding problem. He expressed frustration that there are too many study halls at the high school, which discourages the students. He expressed concern that money for special education is being cut. He stated that the District is obligated by law to write an individual education program for special needs students. He stated that the individual needs of students are not being considered but instead it is the number of students and the time available to serve them. He stated that special education

programs need more money to provide more teachers so that caseloads are not as high.

Ms. Sharon Ganser, Seward area parent, expressed concern that her daughter, who is a senior, has had to take two college courses, is a classroom aide, and a volunteer at the Alaska Vocational Technical Training Center. She stated that the only high school class her daughter is taking this school year is anatomy because there was nothing else available. She stated that she is not happy that her other daughter is taking study hall because there was nothing else offered. She stated that the situation will be the same during the second semester and that her daughter will have to enroll in another study hall. She stated that her older daughter had enough credits to graduate during her junior year. She stated that when she was a student thirty years ago she had many courses to choose from and suggested that the state funding formula be changed for middle-sized schools. She stated that smaller schools seem to have more to offer than middle-sized schools. She suggested that the legislature be asked to change the funding formula to give all children a fair chance, not just the children in Anchorage or in very small communities.

Ms. Melissa Olver, Seward Middle/High School art teacher, stated that she is feeling the parents' frustration over the lack of classes for the number of students. She stated that over the past five years the school has lost five teachers for approximately 20 fewer students. She stated that the loss equals to 30 fewer classes. She stated that the District needs to give back the opportunities to Seward students. She stated that inflation has affected the schools greatly and that the funding formula is not working. She stated that she supports the parents who have spoken to the Board and noted that she hears the same comments from her students. She asked the Board to give the Seward community an idea of what can be done.

Dr. Anderson suggested that some of the problems that were expressed regarding block scheduling can be handled at the school level. He stated that the Board recognizes the concerns regarding funding and added that many District schools are experiencing identical problems. He stated that the Board will continue to do the best to meet individual needs.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SITE  
COUNCIL, AND/OR P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.  
P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A.:

Ms. Cindy Ecklund, Seward Site Council president, stated that the Seward community would like to have someone locally on the School Board. She stated that the Site Council and community are anticipating the Seward Middle School code compliance report. She stated that the Council has decided to meet through the summer so that building needs for next year can be addressed, based on the compliance report. She reminded those present that the legislature is still in session and encouraged those present to send a public opinion message, and reported that education funding legislation is currently in the senate. She asked the Board to consider reviewing classroom numbers in July so that additional teachers can be hired, if necessary, and avoid a transition during the school year.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SITE  
COUNCIL, AND/OR P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.  
P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A. (continued):

Mr. Mike Davis, Seward Site Council member, stated that the funding cycle repeats itself each year throughout Alaska. He stated that the cycle must be broken or education in the state will go "down the tubes", and noted that it is no longer a money issue it is a demoralizing issue. He pointed out that the state is arguing over whether there is enough money to fund the staff who are responsible for teaching the state standards. He suggested that the community consider the use of technology to deliver education in a more efficient and student-centered manner. He encouraged

those present to tell legislators that the education community is tired of being demoralized, of putting children second, and of unfunded mandates.

Mr. Dave Dieckgraeff, Seward Site Council member, expressed concern that next year there may be 36 students in a classroom and that Seward Elementary will lose 2.5 teachers. He stated that the Seward Middle/High facility is 30 years old as well as some of the equipment. He asked the Board to help seek maintenance for the school because it may be five years or longer before a new school could be constructed and cautioned that it is an unsafe situation for students. Mr. Dieckgraeff noted that the Seward community has a large number of volunteers who help in the schools but they cannot take the place of teachers. He stated that the pupil-teacher ratio must be lowered because students are missing out on many elective courses. He asked the Board to help the community lobby the legislature for more educational funding.

Mr. Charlie Crangle, reported that the Seward Community organized a rally for education and used an analogy of Seward as the canary in the coal mine. He stated that the education funding problems will affect the rest of the state very soon. He stated that declining enrollment is only part of the problem and that inflation and the area cost differential also play a large part. He stated that during a recent teleconference, Senator Torgerson asked why the District did not have a lobbyist like the University of Alaska. He stated that the District does not have the money or administrative staff to dedicate towards lobbying efforts. He suggested that the Board join forces with the Assembly and explore the potential of suing the state of Alaska for inadequate funding of education. He stated that it is unbelievable that the Anchorage School District has a \$17 million surplus where the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is bleeding. He showed a video clip of the Seward rally for education. He encouraged the Board to look "outside of the box" for solutions to fund education. He asked the Board to look for ways to fund more teachers so students can receive the education they deserve.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:** Dr. Peterson reported that she has received the usual correspondence from the state department.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Peterson reported that May 5 through 11 is Teacher Appreciation Week and encouraged those present to show appreciation for teachers. She thanked District teachers for their service.

**Status on Technology Plan Implementation:** Mr. Jim White presented the Technology Plan Implementation Report which included a summary of how the six-year project will be completed in three years and still remain true to the core tenants of the plan.

Ms. Germano noted that the Connections Program helped the District Technology Plan move ahead of schedule.

**Future Budget Considerations:** Dr. Donna Peterson presented the Future Budget Considerations Report which examines and provides position statements regarding the elimination of cocurricular activities, an increase to the pupil-teacher ratio and the closing of several schools. She explained that the report centers on items that the Board continues to discuss each year during the budget cycle. She stated that the administration needed to gather information on how decisions on these issues will impact students. She stated that recommendations will be forthcoming but added that no schools are slated for closure at this time. She announced that the report is available online.

## BOARD REPORTS:

Ms. Mullins reported that three Board Members traveled to Juneau to participate in the AASB Legislative Fly-In and to meet with legislators. She reported that the Board was able to meet with most of the legislators except the senators who were in caucus. She reported that the Board asked the legislature for a long range fiscal plan and to put money in the foundation formula and not in the Learning Opportunity Grants. She stated that the legislature is currently considering adding money to the LOG grants, which is allocated per pupil. She explained that if the additional money went into the base allocation, the District would receive an increase from the Borough. She noted that at this time the LOG grants do not allow additional money from the Borough. She reported that many legislators are nervous about opening up the funding formula before results of the area cost differential study is complete. She reported that the legislature first wants to know what it will cost to bring the entire state education system up to date from 1987. She stated that she was impressed with the helpfulness of the District legislators, and noted that they have been working hard. She reported that an emphasis needs to be directed at the senate, especially the Health, Education and Social Service Committee, Finance Committee and Conference Committee.

Mrs. Gilman reported that she also attended the AASB Legislative Fly-In. She noted that the Board has been trying to encourage the legislature to adequately forward fund education. She agreed that class sizes of 35 students are unmanageable and unreasonable. She suggested that every person in attendance send a message to the senate every day until the session adjourns. She stated that she felt certain that the House has made education a number one priority but that the Senate has not. She explained that the \$7 million increase in the funding formula was not an increase because the legislature did not hold the District accountable for the decrease in attendance. She stated that the area cost differential assigned to the District is not adequate.

Ms. Germano stated that the Senate will say that they have done something for education. She stated that she believes that the House did the right thing by passing a long range fiscal plan. She stated that until the entire legislature realizes that the public is serious about adequately funding education, the District is in trouble. She stated that her message to the Senate is to deal with the fiscal plan that was sent to them from the House.

## BOARD REPORTS (continued):

Dr. Peterson reported that representatives of the District have traveled to Juneau nine separate weeks out of the session with teams of teachers, principals, Board members, administration, and parents. She stated that parents traveled five separate weeks, Board members traveled two separate weeks, and the administration traveled three separate times. She reported that the last group to travel to Juneau was from NEA and KPEA. She reported that she talked with each group about the District's stance on each piece of education legislation. She stated that she gave the same presentation at several schools. She reported that approximately 30 to 40 people traveled to Juneau on behalf of the District and were heard by legislators regarding the "Leave no District Behind" proposal.

Dr. Anderson thanked Mr. Long, Mr. Sprague, and other Borough Assembly members for providing the funds for the parent trips to Juneau. He stated that the Board appreciates the Assembly's assistance and their support for education.

Ms. Germano thanked the parents who traveled to Juneau to lobby for the District.

She stated that she found it interesting that on the Board's second Juneau trip many legislators were well aware of the District's message regarding education funding.

Mrs. Gilman reported that every legislator or staff person acknowledged the District's cost differential plight and referred the Board to the study that is due in November. She stated that if in January 2003 the legislature is still not willing to remedy the area cost differential problem then the District should become resolute.

Dr. Anderson explained that the Board has been very proactive and tries to do what is best for students. He explained that the Board members are private citizens with other forms of employment and work on Board of Education business on their own time. He stated that the Board members and administration are individuals dedicated to helping the educational system.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Budget Transfers; Long Term Substitute Teacher Contract; Resignations; New Teacher Assignment for 2001-2002; and New Teacher Assignments for 2002-2003.

**Budget Transfers:**

Mrs. Melody Douglas recommended the Board approve budget transfers Numbers 458 and 525 which respectively transfers \$37,654 and \$130,790 to cover the purchase of staff and associated fringe benefits for summer school remediation programs; Number 526 for \$98,227 to purchase two special education buses for Seward bus routes; and Number 543 for \$139,350 to purchase software for the schools included in the Year 3 Tech Plan.

**Long Term Substitute Teacher Contract:**

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve long-term substitute teacher contracts for Rita Geller, physical education, Soldotna Elementary and Deborah Brophy, special education/resource, Soldotna High.

**Resignations:**

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve resignations effective the end of the 2001-2002 school year for Kristin Green, Grades 1 and 2, Sears Elementary; Fiona McKeon, special education/severe, Seward High School; Berry Swenson, principal, Kenai Central High School; and Tom Weller, Title I Teacher, Kachemak Selo.

**New Teacher Assignment, 2001-2002:**

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve a teaching appointment for the 2001-2002 school year for Amy Little, school psychologist, Pupil Services.

**New Teacher Assignments, 2002-2003:**

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve teaching appointments for the 2002-2003 school year for Ned Clooten, math and athletic director, Nikiski Middle High School; Kay Downs, preschool special needs teacher, Sears Elementary; Kevin Downs, special education/resource, Soldotna Middle School; Theresa Owens, special education, intensive needs at K-Beach Elementary; and Timothy Wight, special education, resource, Skyview High School.

**ACTION**

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 5. Ms. Germano seconded.

Ms. Germano asked whether the summer school remediation programs are districtwide elementary through high school programs. Mrs. Douglas confirmed that the summer remedial programs will be offered for elementary through high school students and all programs are offered at the same time. Mr. Stewart explained that the summer programs are designed for students who need remediation and will operate June 3-28.



Motion carried unanimously.

Nontenure Teachers for Tenure, 2002-2003: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve a list of nontenure teachers for tenure for the 2002-2003 school year.

ACTION Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve a list of nontenure teachers for tenure for the 2002-2003 school year. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Tentative Nontenure Teacher Assignments, 2002-2003: Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve a list of tentative nontenure teacher assignments beginning the 2002-2003 school year.

ACTION Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve a list of tentative nontenure teacher assignments beginning the 2002-2003 school year. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Ms. Germano expressed appreciation that more teachers are being assigned to positions in their certificated area but stated she is concerned that there are still some teachers being assigned outside of their certificated area.

Motion carried unanimously.

Cocurricular Activities and Handbooks: Mr. Syverson explained that prior to the meeting, the Board conducted a worksession to review changes to the Cocurricular Activities Handbooks as proposed by the member schools of the Kenai Peninsula Student Activities Association. He noted that during the worksession the Board created an addendum which is also being recommended for approval.

ACTION Mrs. Gilman moved the Board approve the changes to the Cocurricular Activities Handbook. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

ACTION Ms. Germano moved the Board approve an amendment to strike language in Item E1. and the following language added, "If eligibility is not regained during that week, or if the student has an incomplete ("I") that is not made up in that week, the student remains ineligible until the Monday following the next eligibility check date." Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Cocurricular Activities and Handbooks (continued): Mr. Arness expressed concern about the effect of the amendment because it does not address the same question of the original motion. Mr. Arness explained that an "incomplete" is not considered a failing grade for the purposes of eligibility. He stated that if a student is missing from school and misses a test or a key homework assignment making them "incomplete" but they missed school on a pre approved basis as opposed to being "incomplete" at eligibility check time, then they would have the opportunity to make up the work and would still be ineligible. Mr. Arness explained that the proposed language in the main motion addresses, "where students have time" per school policy.

Ms. Germano stated that when asked about school policy, the response was that it was a KPSAA policy.

Mr. Arness explained that KPSAA was trying to focus on a specific problem not the whole problem of “incompletes.” Mr. Steve Pautz, Seward High principal provided comments regarding student “incompletes.”

RECESS

At 9:37 p.m., Dr. Anderson called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

At 9:43 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

Ms. Germano removed her amendment with concurrence of the second.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve an amendment to remove the high school revisions from the KPSAA recommendation. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

Administrator Appointments:

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the transfer of Sylvia Reynolds to the principal position at K-Beach Elementary, and the appointment of John Alan Owens as the assistant principal of Nikiski Middle/High School.

ACTION

Mrs. Germano moved the Board approve the transfer of Sylvia Reynolds to the principal position at K-Beach Elementary, and the appointment of John Alan Owens as the assistant principal of Nikiski Middle/High School. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Ron Long, Assembly Member, stated that he commended the Board for their hard work and added that it is a tough job and getting tougher.

Ms. Sandra Wassilie thanked the Board for coming to Seward. She stated that she understands what the Board is going through. She reported that she traveled to Juneau to advocate for funding for education and noted that she had a similar experience to Ms. Germano and Mrs. Gilman. She thanked those present for their attendance. She stated that the foundation formula is not working and needs to be reviewed. She stated that the legislature should look ahead and not wait for the cost differential study to be completed.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. Poindexter thanked those in attendance and added that all of the comments and suggestions that were expressed have been discussed by the Board many times. He reported that he recently volunteered to drive activity buses to Wasilla and Fairbanks. He noted that the Mat-Su School District provided very nice busses complete with storage compartments under the bus and a bathroom. He stated that he wonders how they can afford such nice busses when the KPBSD struggles to keep their busses running. He reported that he taught in a physical education class with 66 students and noted that it was difficult to manage that many students. He stated that the administration will come up with a creative idea to balance the budget and noted that the North Star Borough in Fairbanks is offering science credit for community schools classes. He reported that his daughter was assigned a study hall class and created her own curriculum in an area she was interested, and that she had tutors and mentors who helped her with her studies. Mr. Poindexter stated that schools can help with diversity in the economy, provided they have the opportunity. He stated that the District needs to figure out how to offer a comprehensive vocational education

program at all high schools. Mr. Poindexter stated that he would like to discuss class fees at the next meeting.

Mr. Arness stated that the Board is aware of all of the frustrations that were expressed. He assured those present that each concern has been heard. He stated that the block scheduling decision has been made at the school level and recommended that parents speak to the principal.

Mrs. Mullins thanked the student dancers from Seward Elementary for their performance. She stated that the Board has a difference of opinion regarding block scheduling and considered discussing the issue at a Board meeting but decided that it was a local decision. She suggested that parents speak with their site based council and principal if they wish to change from the block schedule. Ms. Germano stated that she appreciated the large audience and was impressed with the plea for more teachers in the classroom.

Mrs. Crawford thanked the Seward community for their concern. She reported that many people ask what they can do about declining funds but are not willing to give up their Permanent Fund check or initiate a state income tax. She stated that something has to be done to produce a long-range solution. She thanked the Seward Elementary dancers for their performance and Mr. Hofseth for the Hope Elementary/High School presentation. She reported that she will work on accreditation at Homer High.

Ms. Germano thanked the Seward Elementary student dancers. She invited those present to visit the Pratt Museum to view a special exhibit titled, Looking Both Ways: Heritage and Identity of the Alutiiq People. She stated that the exhibit includes artifacts and visual and oral presentations. She stated that the block scheduling issue is a local decision and recommended the parents bring up the conversation at a site council meeting. She encouraged the Seward High parents to look at other schools (inside and outside of the District) to see what they can offer. She stated that she believes in putting the best teachers in front of students.

#### BOARD COMMENTS (continued):

Mrs. Gilman thanked Seward Elementary staff and students for their presentation and noted that students scored in the 71 percentile in math. She announced that Kim Reemson, a parent volunteer at Sears Elementary, has been chosen to receive the First Lady Volunteer Award, for starting the holiday drive for needy families which has grown throughout all of the Kenai area schools. She thanked KPEA and KPESA for inviting her to speak at the Stand Up For Schools Rally. She noted that Sears Elementary teacher, Kris Green's resignation was approved on the Consent Agenda. She stated that Mrs. Green is an outstanding teacher and noted that it is obvious to her which students have had Mrs. Green as a teacher.

Dr. Anderson recognized the Board as some of the finest people to work with and that even though the members come from many different backgrounds; their decisions are made in the best interest of students. He stated that he appreciates the fine work that the public has done to lobby the legislature for additional education funding. He stated that the Board will not adjourn the meeting; instead they would recess with the possibility of reconvening within the next couple of weeks.

#### RECESS

At 10:09 p.m., Dr. Anderson called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

At 2:04 p.m., on Monday, June 03, 2002 at the Borough Administration Building, Soldotna, Alaska, the Board reconvened in regular session. Board members, Dr. Anderson, Mr. Arness, Mrs. Mullins, Mrs. Gilman, Mrs. Crawford and Ms. Germano were in attendance.

ADJOURN:

At 2:05 p.m., Ms. Germano moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dr. Nels Anderson, President

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Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Clerk

The Minutes of May 6, 2002,  
were approved on June 3, 2002  
with a correction.